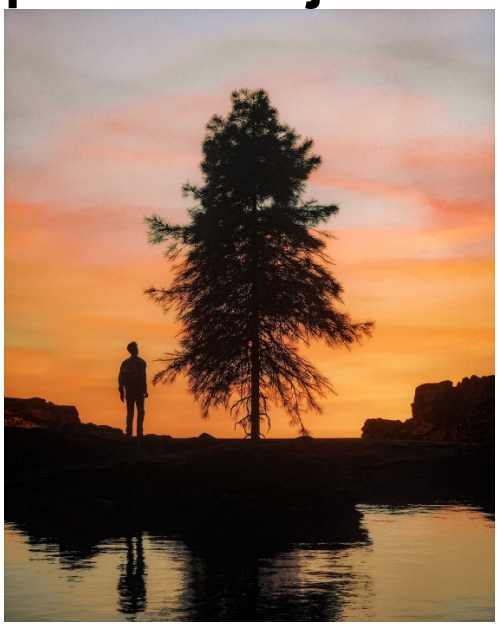
First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice



May 7, 2023
10:00 am

Enduring Witness
Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING THE BELL — **MARTY KLEINO**

PRELUDE — *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud — **IN-AE HA**

"Take My Life and Let It Be"
By Henry A. Cesar Malan

WELCOME — **PASTOR LIZ**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.
- **Today—the first Sunday of the month--we celebrate the birthdays of folks in our faith community born in this month by singing "Happy Birthday**." Donna Eyster, May 3rd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS — **PASTOR LIZ**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader is **Ellie Gusman.**
  - The Greeters are **Patty Sherwood** (Roomie) and **Jeanette Sherrill** (Zoomie).
  - **Pastor Liz** and **Jeanette** will introduce folks participating in worship.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - **This is the first Sunday of the month; we will be sharing communion during this service. Please gather your own elements. Creativity is a blessing!**
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN — *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional — **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Come to the Waters"
3 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP — *Responsive — **ELLIE GUSMAN**

Leader: Sharing stories, sharing food.

People: This is our life.

Leader: Sharing wisdom, sharing hope.

People: This is our truth.

Leader: Sharing laughter, sharing pain.

People: This is our way.

Leader: Let us worship God.

HYMN *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Many Are the Lightbeams"
163 NCH

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Psalm 31:1-5 & 15-16** **ELLIE GUSMAN**

SECOND READING **John 14:1-14** **PASTOR LIZ**

HYMN *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Now the Green Blade Rises"
238 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE **"Enduring Witness"** **PASTOR LIZ**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording (button with two vertical lines)
*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **PASTOR LIZ**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER *Unison with Microphone muted **PASTOR LIZ**

Sweet Jesus, you know,
You know our loves, our hurts, our desolation;
You know our joy in you and in each other;
You know our fear of death and of painful dying.
Sweet Jesus, after Easter,
We know you know,
And we are full of hope and wonder.
Amen.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING **PASTOR LIZ**

The balm of love was offered for our healing. What will we offer in thanksgiving for so great a gift?

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"I Need Thee Every Hour"** **IN-AE HA**
By Robert Lowry

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Take My Gifts" v 2, 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
*Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief***.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **ELLIE GUSMAN**

We give, gracious God, because we are grateful.
Your love has sustained us through many trials and tribulations.
We give in order to extend to others the blessings we have received. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
347 NCH

COMMUNION SERVICE **PASTOR LIZ**
No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Christ's table!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **PASTOR LIZ**

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"
32 NCH

BENEDICTION (Responsive) **PASTOR LIZ**

Leader: We are travelling the way of justice.

People: We are exploring the way of truth.

Leader: We are living the life of discoveries.

People: We are journeying home to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE **"Oh Worship the King"** **IN-AE HA**
By Hayden, Arr William Gardiner

PASSING THE PEACE *Stop Zoom Recording (square button) **FRIENDS GATHERED**

*Save Zoom Recording to Cloud (click "yes")

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Hybrid Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
In-Ae Ha, Accompanist

Jenn Zibbell, MID Ministry Intern
Ellie Gusman, Worship Leader
Marty Kleino, Usher & Bell Ringer

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Worship Address:
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734-482-6980
ypsiucc.org

ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** Cash Macanaya in *Unsplash*
- **Call to Worship, Disciples Prayer, and Benediction:** Ruth Burgess in *Fire and Bread*
- **Invitation to Offering, Prayer of Dedication:** Lavon Baylor in *Led by Love,* adapted
- **Hymn Profiles:** *New Century Hymnal Companion,* Pilgrim Press (1999)

  Doreen Potter heard this Jamaican folk melody and asked Frederick Kaan to write lyrics. It was sung at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi Africa,1975. The music of the Caribbean islands is not often associated with hymn tunes. Yet the religious heritage of these islands is rich, due to the historic diversity of its people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please call or text Pastor Liz, 734-358-6108.

Worship Next Week will be Pastor Liz's last worship service with us. As a "sending out" congregation, we will send her out with our love to pursue her ministry as she discerns God's call. **Pastor Liz, you will be truly missed.** Good-byes are hard and this is especially so because of all the discernment and ministry we have done together. Rev. Cheryl Burke, our Associate Conference Minister, will be with us next at the service to share in the UCC "Liturgy of Farewell". Friendship Time will following worship in our worship space. **Please plan to attend and send Pastor Liz out with our love.**

Worship Leader, Donna Eyster; Greeters, Patty Sherwood(Roomie) and **Ellie Gusman**(Zoomie).

Worship Team will meet TOMORROW, Monday, May 8th, 6:30 pm via Zoom. We will be planning summer worship and the transition to ZOOM-ONLY worship beginning May 21st. All are welcome.

Weekly Ypsi UCC Community Discernment Gatherings based on Susan Beaumont's book and bi-weekly Christian Contemplative Practices Sessions funded by our 2023 Vitality Grant have now concluded. Gratitude to all who participated and represented our larger faith community in this critical work during this liminal season of change, letting go, growth, and new possibilities. High levels of commitment and engagement to a collaborative, cooperative process of deep listening, prayer, meditation, and conversation have led to the creation of Ypsi UCC Mission, Vision and Values Statements unique to our small, but mighty congregation. These statements will serve to guide our church leadership's decision making, resource allocation, programming, and strategic planning processes as we move forward together to the abundant future God desires for us. In addition, they represent a positive asset for future grant applications from the UCC and external sources.

Ypsi UCC Mission Statement

Having received God's expansive and unconditional love, we act in ways to extend God's love and care locally and globally, striving for inclusion in all its forms.

Ypsi UCC Vision Statement

We aspire to be a community of faith that builds on the gift of God's expansive, unconditional love. We persistently strive, with many others, to find real life ways to creatively use God's powerful instrument of love. With God, we seek to shape a caring community where ALL people can live their best lives, comfortable in a sense of belonging, participation, safety, and abundance.

Ypsi UCC Values Statement

Inclusion. We seek to be a bold place to belong and a courageous spiritual home where all persons feel accepted. Our exuberant welcome is grounded in our UCC Open and Affirming Covenant celebrating everyone--including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, education, physical ability, cognitive ability, mental health, and spiritual or religious background. We embrace language inclusive of our understanding of God and of each other.

Equity. Committed to building equity in all systems, we take action by working for Justice, Peace, and Creation Care in our surrounding neighborhoods and the wider world. We are challenged to learn and grow spiritually**,** to be sent out to serve in a diverse variety of personal, vocational, and community social justice and leadership settings**,** according to our spiritual gifts and unique sense of God's call.

Caring. Guided by biblical Scripture and Jesus' vision of radical, counter-cultural love, we share kindness and compassion by responding with generosity and respect. We connect with others to build strong relationships based on mutual trust, authenticity, and integrity.

Resilience. Grounded in faith and hope in an abundant future, we persistently and organically rise to the challenges in front of us by cohesively pulling together in times of adversity and struggle.

Innovation. We embrace change with creativity and optimism trusting God to open new doors. We take informed risks to experiment with progressive novel ways to worship and serve that honor being in partnership with each other and with our wider community.

OUR MINISTRIES

HOLY GROUNDS AND TEA FOR THE SOUL

During the Omicron (COVID) surge members of Ypsi UCC provided local coffee, tea, coffee cups, and single packaged snacks for the night shift at Trinity Health St. Joe Mercy Hospital where Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown is the night chaplain. While the COVID crisis has partially resolved, the stress level of the night staff has not. Contributing factors include the long-term emerging effects of COVID, a lack of staff, a nation-wide nurse shortage, and staff burnout. The night shift greatly appreciates this ministry of hospitality and caring.

Please consider donating coffee that is roasted by local Michigan companies. Tea and single packaged candy or snacks are also welcome. Please contact Marty Kleino at Mgkleino@gmail.com or 734-262-1419 to have your donation delivered to St. Joes. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Dan Kidder-McQuown at mcq188@gmail.com or 517-240-8413.

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

Come to the Waters

♩=144
E♭ Fm7 Gm Fm7 Gm Fm
Come, Je - sus is call-ing to you. "Reach out, take my hand. You'll not
♩=144
7
E♭ B♭ E♭ Fm7 Gm Fm7
fall Come, come, I am wait-ing for you. O'er the
13
Gm Fm7 E♭ E♭
To verses Last time, Fine
wa - ters of life, hear my call." call."
To verses Last time, Fine

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Piano Arrangement: Sherri Hansen, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

2 Verses

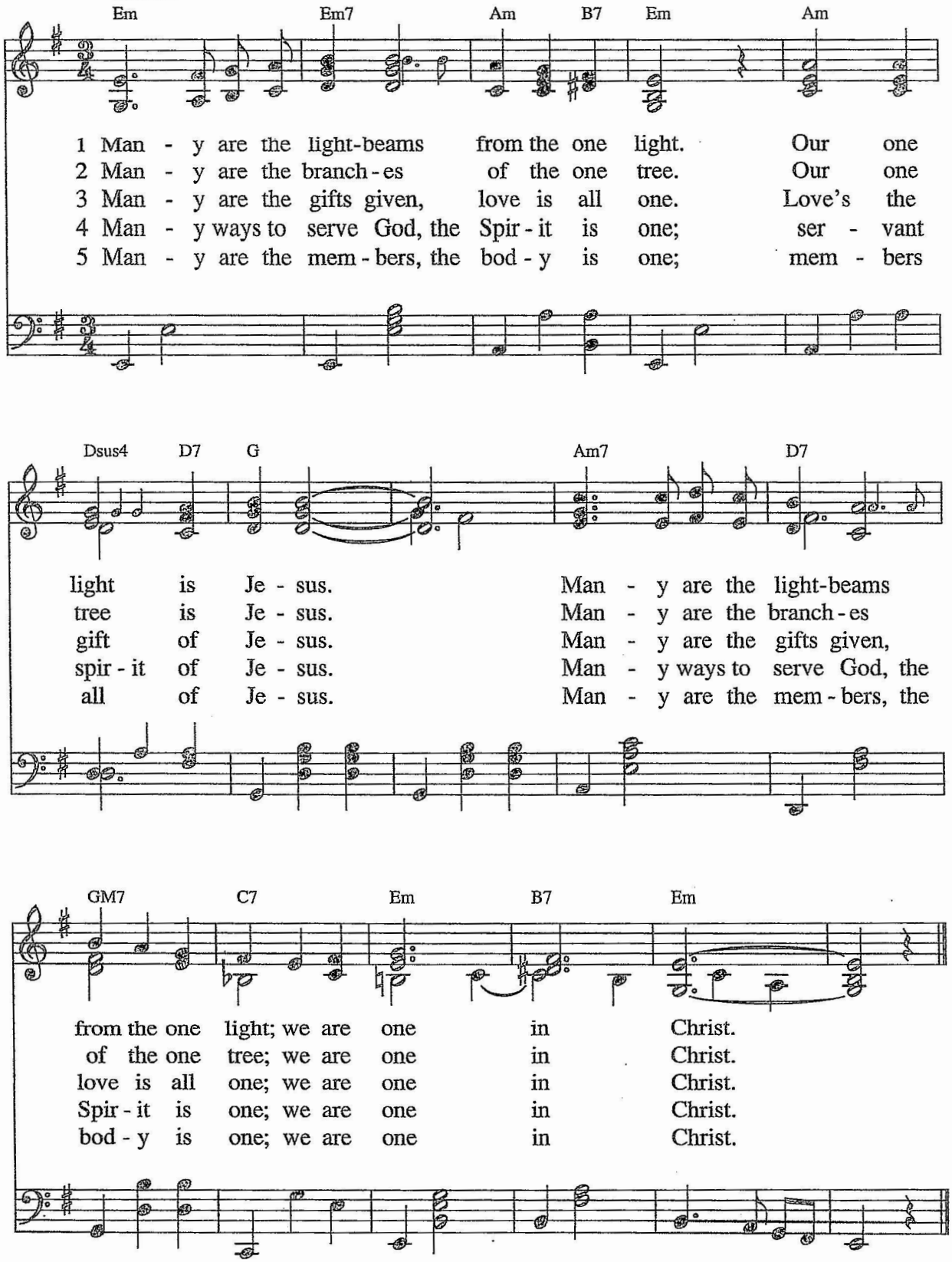
19
A♭
B♭9/D
E♭
C7
Fm
1. "Reach out in faith, cross the wa - ters to me. Your hand in
2. "Walk out in faith, take the risk if you can. I bring you
24
B♭7
E♭maj7
C7
Fm
B♭9
mine, that's the way it should be. Stretch out in faith, take my
peace, come a - long take my hand. Step out in faith, I will
29
E♭maj7
C7
Fm
B♭7
E♭
B♭7
D.C.
hand if you will. Wa - ters be calm! Wind be still."
car - ry you on. You may be weak; I am strong."
D.C.

Many Are the Lightbeams

Cyprian of Carthage, "De unitate ecclesiae," 252 C.E.
Swedish paraphr. by Anders Frostenson (b. 1906)
Transl. David Lewis, 1983

John 8:12; 9:5; 15:1–5; 1 Cor. 12:4–27; Gal. 3:28

Unison


Em Em7 Am B7 Em Am
1 Man - y are the light-beams from the one light. Our one
2 Man - y are the branch - es of the one tree. Our one
3 Man - y are the gifts given, love is all one. Love's the
4 Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is one; ser - vant
5 Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is one; mem - bers
Dsus4 D7 G Am7 D7
light is Je - sus. Man - y are the light-beams
tree is Je - sus. Man - y are the branch - es
gift of Je - sus. Man - y are the gifts given,
spir - it of Je - sus. Man - y ways to serve God, the
all of Je - sus. Man - y are the mem - bers, the
GM7 C7 Em B7 Em
from the one light; we are one in Christ.
of the one tree; we are one in Christ.
love is all one; we are one in Christ.
Spir - it is one; we are one in Christ.
bod - y is one; we are one in Christ.

The text upon which this hymn is based is by a bishop of the early church, Cyprian of Carthage. It was paraphrased from his 252 C.E. work, "De unitate ecclesiae" (Of church unity). He was martyred in Carthage c. 258.

Tune: LIGHTBEAMS Irr.
Olle Widestrand (b. 1906)
Arr. Darryl Nixon, 1987

Now the Green Blade Rises

238

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57–28:7; Luke 23:50–24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,
Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,
Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Refrain
Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient French Christmas carol tune when it was included in the Oxford Book of Carols *(1928).*

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.
French noel, 15th century
Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928

Words and harmonization Copyright ©, Oxford University Press.

347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1–9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G
1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,
C F G Dm7 C G C
bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!
Refrain (first time p, second time f)
C C7 F Dm G C F C
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
Jamaican folk song
Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

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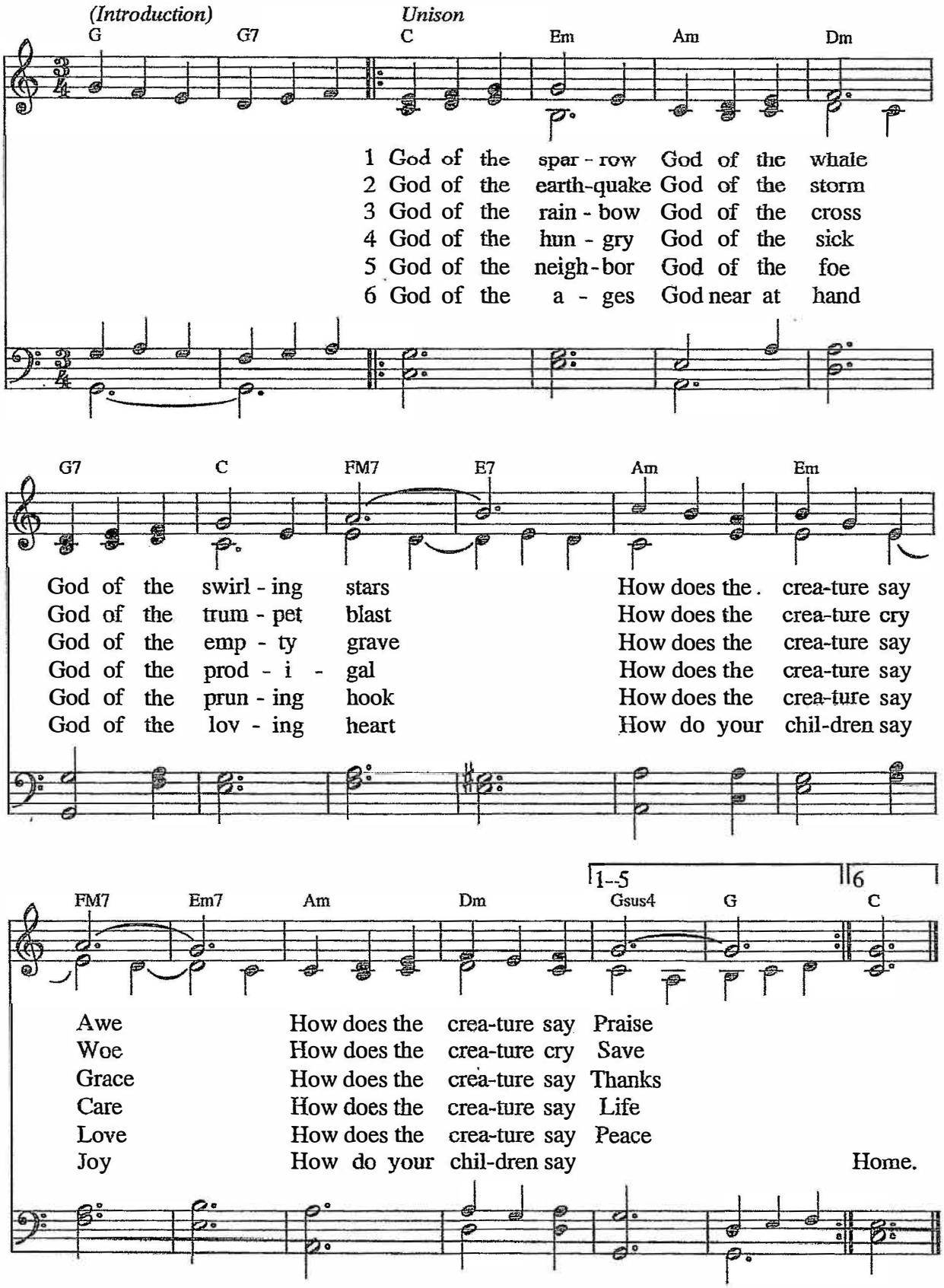
32 God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983


(Introduction)
Unison
G G7 C Em Am Dm
1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
6 God of the a - ges God near at hand
G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em
God of the swirl - ing stars How does the . crea-ture say
God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say
God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say
God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say
God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say
1-5
6
FM7 Em7 Am Dm Gsus4 G C
Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
Care How does the crea-ture say Life
Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating new poetic forms and adapting ageless ideas and expressions, Vajda speaks in the language of his time.

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.
Carl F. Schalk, 1983

Music Copyright © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.